

Ohio Stars Shock West Virginia, 30-6

By DON CLEGG
News-Register Sports Writer

It was put up or shut up time for Ohio and West Virginia at Wheeling Island Stadium Sunday night and the Buckeyes had a rather terse message for the Mountaineers in the 20th annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic.

"Shut up!"

Ohio scored twice in a 30-second span early in the first quarter and the stunned Mountaineers never recovered as the Buckeyes rolled to a surprisingly easy 30-6 victory before well over 7,000 fans at the island facility.

The two teams had spent much of the final few days before the game indulging in some good-natured chest pounding over which side would come out on top and while West Virginia may have won the verbal battle — coming into the game as a slight favorite — Ohio definitely had the last word Sunday night.

Statistics

	Ohio	WV
First downs	17	8
Yards	43-288	24-72
Passing	89	72
Running	7	0
Comp-Att-Int	4-7-0	2-8-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-8	0-0
Fumbles	2-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-40	2-1
Time of Possession	27:12	28:48

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Ohio, Crawford 12-78, Williams 4-24, Kirksey 10-49, Thurston 4-37, Veselko 4-27, Ross 2-16, Bean 2-2, Ben 2-13, West Virginia, McGhee 7-33, Jerrone 8-22, Lay 2-11, Heller 2-6, Pender 1-4, Hill 1-3, Bosley 2-14, Dickman 1-4, P. Adams 1-3.
PASSING—Ohio, Bean 4-23-20, West Virginia, Heller 8-18-4-7, Clark 5-10-0, McGhee 6-11-0.
RECEIVING—Ohio, Dornbrock 2-14, Kirksey 1-16, Thurston 1-4, West Virginia, Dickman 2-24, Hill 2-24, McGhee 2-16, Jerrone 1-1.
INTERCEPTIONS—Ohio, Ben 1-4, Wash 1-2, T. Watkins 1-1, West Virginia, none.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

"I saw where (West Virginia quarterback Kevin) Heller was talking about how our kids from Belleaire (Hedy Heatherington and David Ice) should be getting ready for more of the same," said Toronto free safety Adam Rex, who came up with three of Ohio's five interceptions, "since he'd thrown for 200 yards against them twice when they were with Belleaire."

"I guess he forgot about me."
 The game plan for Coach Mike Young's squad was to keep West Virginia's larger defensive linemen off-balance with quarterback Brian Bean's sleight-of-hand wizardry out of the belly-option series with an occasional deep pass thrown in to keep the secondary honest.

Ohio's defensive coaches, headed by defensive coordinator Mickey Blumik, negated West Virginia's breakaway ability by stacking the perimeter against speedy backs like Wheeling Central's Eric McGhee and John Marshall's Turk Hill, forcing the Mountaineer wishbone to

probe inside.
 "These kids deserve all the recognition," said an elated Young as he motioned toward his still-celebrating players immediately after the game.

"No doubt we were the underdogs coming in here — and deservedly so when you look at West Virginia's roster — but our kids forced a couple of early breaks and played as a team. They did a great job and I couldn't be happier for them."

After the opening kickoff rolled dead in the end zone for a touchback, the Buckeyes, who were expected to have trouble moving the ball against a staunch West Virginia defensive front featuring four first-team all-stars, embarked on an impressive seven-play, 80-yard march for the game's first score.

Four running plays netted 22 yards and a pair of first downs, moving the ball out to the Ohio 42 and setting up the first big play of the game.

Bean spun out from behind center and dug the ball into fullback Phil Kirksey's belly. This time, however, Bean pulled the leather back out and rolled to his left looking for tight end Darren Dornbrock who was streaking toward the flag behind the West Virginia secondary.

Dornbrock pulled in the pass over his left shoulder inside the Mountaineer 20 and rumbled to the 12 before being hauled down on the 46-yard gain.

Stuebenville Catholic tailback Kevin Williams then hammered out two tough yards up the middle before Bean used the belly-fake to set up another pass.

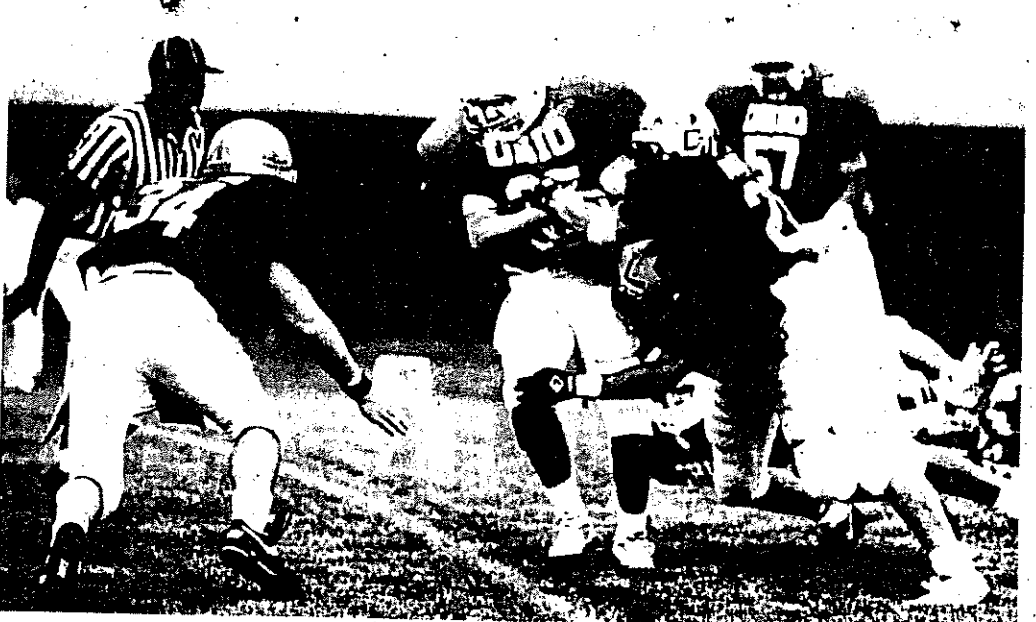
This time went right back to Kirksey, who had drifted-out to the right after faking into the line. The St. Clairsville fullback juggled the ball momentarily inside the five but dove into the corner of the end zone before West Virginia could recover.

That stopped the clock with 8:46 remaining in the first half and gave Ohio a 6-0 lead. The Buckeyes failed to convert on a two-point conversion try — they were 0-3 on two-pointers Sunday — but it didn't take them long to get the scoreboard operator moving again.

Kirksey's ensuing kickoff squirted off the right side of the fullback's foot and bounced crazily toward Paden City's Todd Tarbett at the West Virginia 35.

Tarbett tried to corral the bouncing oval but the ball slipped through his grasp as the Wildcat receiver slipped to the turf, bouncing once on top of his helmet before Cambridge's Leonardo Crawford knifed through to recover at the Mountaineer 28.

Bean went for the jugular immediately, sending Dornbrock out on the same play that had broken for 46 yards only a couple of minutes earlier. This time Dornbrock



This was an all-too-familiar sight for West Virginia all-star fans Sunday night as Ohio fullback Phil Kirksey (35) bolts for big yardage in the 20th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kirksey, a St. Clairsville star

grabbed the ball inside the five and dove into the end zone for another six-pointer.

There was still 8:16 remaining on the first quarter clock but the Mountaineers had certainly dug themselves into a very deep hole.

"We really weren't that concerned at 12-0," said Magruda, when asked about the comeback abilities of a team using a wishbone offense. "We still had almost the entire game to play."

"We knew they'd be trying to shut down our perimeter with McGhee and Hill, which they did a good job of, so we tried to loosen them up with the fullback up the middle. We picked up a couple of first downs and then threw an interception."

Rex came up with the interception at his own 13 as Heller came up short of fellow Park standout Brian Dickman on an attempted long strike.

"Actually," said Rex, "I was probably out of position on that one. I'm supposed to stay deep and keep everything in front of me but when I saw the ball hanging up there, I just reacted."

Ohio ground out a pair of first downs but had to punt the ball away

here being hauled down by Oak Glen's Joe DeLong and Cameron's Jason Dalezio (26) while Paden City's Mike Bosley (34) closes in, scored three touchdowns as the underdog Buckeye squad routed West Virginia, 30-6, before a huge crowd at the island facility.

That set up West Virginia's only score, a one-yard plunge by Park's Joe Jerrone that capped a seven-play march with 9:08 left in the game. St. Clairsville's Jeff Mowrey picked off the attempted two-point conversion, keeping the score at 24-6.

The Mountaineers stirred the crowd's interest when Bishop Donahoe's Tim King recovered the outside kick at the Ohio 44 and West Virginia moved down to the 31 yards — 32 of which came on a before disaster struck in the form of a clipping penalty.

That pushed the ball back near midfield and, after an incomplete set up third-and-30 from the Ohio 49, Heller evaded a heavy rush and fired a desperation pass into the flat.

Stadyside's Curt Wach was waiting at the 40 when the ball came down and set off down the left sideline. The Tiger speedster was a stride away from scoring when McGhee tumbled him out of bounds at the two. Crawford went in on the

next snap, however, ending the scoring with 6:04 to play.
 "We might not have had the superstar backs they had," said Young, "but our backs were good, hard-running kids who felt they had something to prove. We told them that the big guys couldn't hurt us if we kept them on the sidelines and they went out and proved us right."
 McGhee got only seven carries and led the team with just 39 rushing yards — 32 of which came on a sideline scamper on the next-to-last play of the game — while Crawford took game rushing honors with 76 yards on a dozen totes.
 West Virginia turned the ball over six times with five interceptions and the botched kickoff return while Ohio lost its only two fumbles.

Ohio	12	0	0	0	6	— 30
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	6	— 6
Q—Kirksey 30 pass from Bean (ice blocked)						
Q—Dornbrock 22 pass from Bean (ice blocked)						
Q—Kirksey 2 run (pass blocked)						
Q—Kirksey 2 run (ice blocked)						
WV—Jerrone 1 run (pass blocked)						
Q—Crawford 2 run (ice blocked)						

Ohio All-Stars again belt W.Va.

St. C.'s Kirksey, Toronto's Rex among top performers

By JEFF HARRISON
T-L Associate Sports Editor

Much of the pre-game talk concerning the 20th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic was centered around West Virginia's "superstars", blazing speed, the revenge motive, etc.

Ohio saved its talk for the gridiron, however, proving that a proper blending of talent into a cohesive unit pays big dividends as the Buckeye squad rolled to a 30-6 victory over its Mountaineer counterparts before a packed house at Wheeling Island Stadium on Sunday.

Ohio coach Mike Young and his St. Clairsville High staff put together a near-flawless game plan, combining a run-oriented attack and a hard-hitting Buckeye defense to keep West Virginia's highly-regarded offense looking on from the sidelines more than they'd have liked on this night.

Add to that a couple of big early plays by the St. C. aerial combination of quarterback Brian Bean and tight end Darren Dombroski and Ohio came away with its fifth win in the last six matchups of the OVAC's best.

"Our kids played together," beamed Young following the clash. "We didn't have any superstars, per say, but we knew if we played together, we could be a super team. Each kid contributed tremendously and we're very proud of the effort they put forth tonight."

"We didn't have any real breakaway threats, but all of the kids ran well and we stayed fresh," Young related. "We've run it (St. C.'s oft-deceiving "belly" series) for years and it still works; we weren't about to change it now."

"Keeping their offense on the sideline was a big factor," the victorious mentor continued, "but I can't say enough about our defense. They just did an outstanding job."

Less than four minutes into the game, before many of the estimated 10,000 onlookers had settled into their seats, Ohio had assumed a 12-0 advantage over the stunned West Virginians.

The Buckeyes' opening 80-yard drive took just seven plays, with St. C.'s Bean executing a perfect play fake and finding a familiar target in Dombroski deep for a 45-yard pickup to the W. Va. 13.

After a four-yard gain by Steubenville Central's Kevin Williams, Bean went to the rollout

The Ohio lead increased to 18-0 in the second period thanks to a well-executed 10-play, 59-yard drive which started after a fake punt by the Mounties was stopped short.

Runs of 13 and 11 yards by Central's Williams highlighted the march, with St. C.'s Kirksey getting the payoff from three yards out with 4:49 left in the half. Bean's PAT pass again misfired.

Toronto's Adam Rex (Ohio's No. 2 quarterback) played primarily on defense and sparked throughout with three interceptions, the second of which set up the fourth score of the night for Ohio.

Taking over at their 34 following the pickoff, the Ohioans churned out a 14-play, 66-yard scoring march which consumed more than eight minutes of the third period.

A 13-yard run by Williams and a 12-yarder by Martins Ferry's Rich Theaker fueled the drive, but it was Kirksey cracking the goal line for a

third time from two yards out.

Bean's keeper on the PAT failed, but Ohio had a 24-0 bulge with 1:52 left in the third round.

Rex came up with his third interception, but Ohio returned the favor on a botched handoff with Wheeling Central's Matt Hobman recovering at the Buckeye 34.

W.Va. quarterback Kevin Heller of Wheeling Park started finding his targets, completing four passes to set up a one-yard plunge by Patriot teammate Joe Jerome. Jeff Mowrey from St. Clairsville intercepted a pass on the bonus try and it was a 24-6 issue with 9:08 remaining.

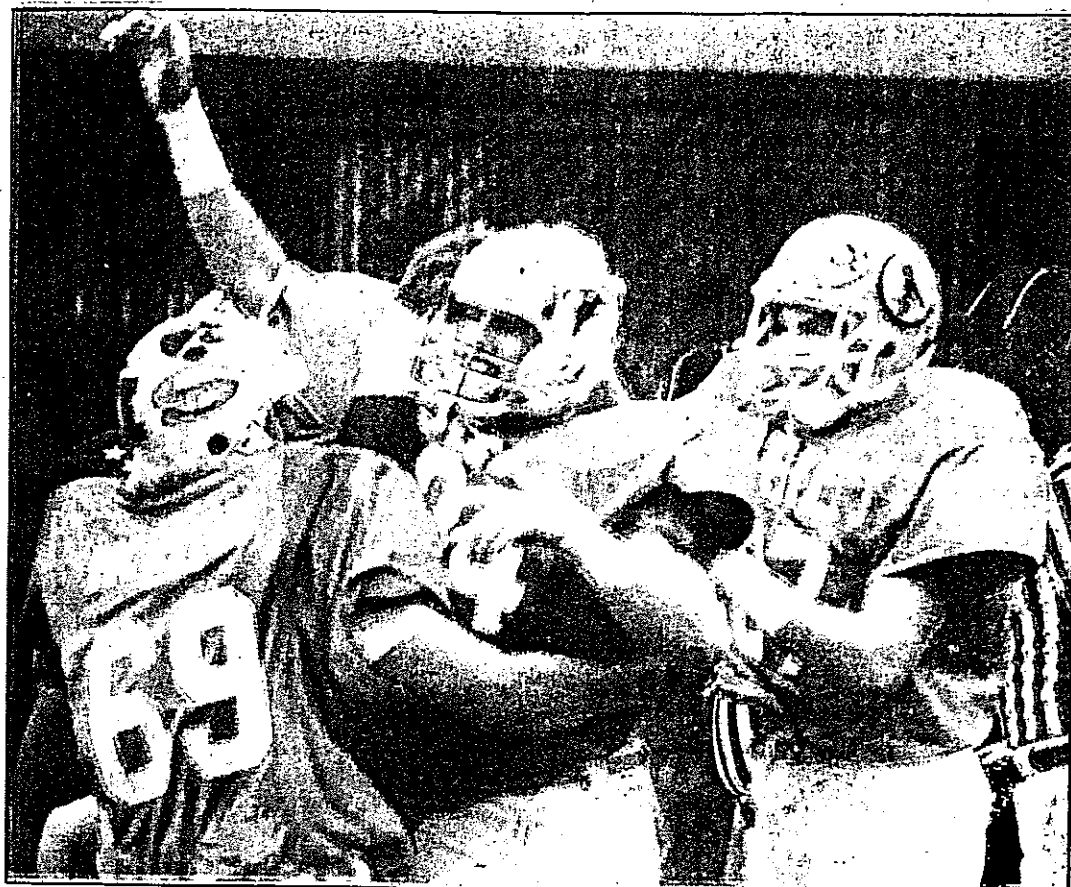
West Virginia executed an outside kickoff, with Oak Glen's Greg Staley recovering, but Shadyside's Curt Wach turned out the lights moments later with a 54-yard interception return to the W. Va. two.

The next play saw Cambridge's Crawford, the game's leading rusher, hit paydirt to close the scoring. Rex's conversion run was stuffed.

Each team added another turnover in the late going, with Cameron's Jason Dalecio covering an Ohio fumble and Sheanudoah's Tom Perkins posting an interception.

Ohio finished with a 293-159 edge in total yardage. The Buckeyes had a net of 206 on the ground and Bean hit four-of-seven passes for 87 yards. Ohio had 17 first downs, lost three fumbles and was hit with four penalties for 40 yards.

Crawford picked up 69 yards on a dozen carries while Williams carried six times for 46 yards and Kirksey



LET THE celebration begin! Ohio scored two early touchdowns to take control of Sunday night's 20th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic en route to a 30-6 victory over its West Virginia counterparts. Here, St. Clairsville's Darren Dombroski (center) celebrates

with teammates Mark Tourvill of Meadowbrook (89) and Mike Kirkkrick of Woodsfield after catching a 28-yard touchdown pass from St. C. teammate Brian Bean.

T-L Photo/CHUCK SAUS

Steubenville Central's Kevin Williams, Bean went to the rollout and hit another St. C. mate, fullback Phil Kirksey, for a nine-yard TD strike.

Bean's lob to Dombroski on the conversion try fell incomplete, but Ohio had a quick 6-0 lead with 8:46 remaining in the opening quarter.

Kirksey executed a squibber on the ensuing kickoff, with Cambridge's Leonardo Crawford pouncing on the loose ball at the W. Va. 28.

Ohio went back to play-action, with Bean again proving his doubters wrong by hitting Dombroski in stride for the score. Williams' try for the

bonus markers was stopped short, but the Bucks were in front 12-0 at the 8:16 mark of the first period.

Williams completed six times for 46 yards and Kirksey had 10 rushes for 43 yards.

W.Va.'s total offense included 85 rushing and 74 passing, with eight-of-20 aerials hitting the mark while five others were picked off. The Mountaineers had nine slick-movers, lost one-of-two fumbles and had three penalties for 35 yards.

Wheeling Central's Eric McIlhee, stymied by the Ohio defense (spearheaded by Edison South linebacker Ben Bateman) until a late 31-yard scamper, finished with seven carries for 41 yards. Scoring:

Ohio	12	6	6	0	-30
W.Va.	0	0	0	0	-0
Ohio - Phil Kirksey, 9-yard pass from Brian Bean. Pass failed.					